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Council confirms funding and charity launches HQ appeal

A group having a day of cooking, from left, Charlotte Wright, Brieze Woodhall, Daniel Fitsroy, Bead Needle and Di Bates

PAYING FOR EXTRA PLAY

A CHARITY for disabled children is to launch a fundraising scheme to secure a new home and provide more services in Banbury.

The Let's Play Project – which offers youngsters, aged five to 18, a range of activities including cooking, days out and sports days – has secured more than £280,000 from Oxfordshire County Council, so it can run for the next 19 months.

The group, which began in 2001 and became a registered charity in 2005, welcomes about 70 to 80 families every week to St Mary's Primary School in Southam Road. Last Friday, about 30 children took part in a cooking event there.

Now project manager Deborah Kerrison, who has praised the school for its support, said the group would be discussing ways to raise funds for a bigger base.

It aims to get grants, donations and stage events, so that it can pay to relocate in three to five years' time.

She said a bigger home would allow the charity to meet increasing demand, hold more cooking classes by using a bigger kitchen and stretch the age limit beyond its current cut off point of 18.

David Rivers
drivers@nqo.com

The 53-year-old, who is based in Didcot, said: "We need a more purpose-built place, because we know we are going to grow, and a bigger place would mean we would be able to help more young people."

Mrs Kerrison got involved in the charity in 2001, because her daughter, Chloe Tyler, had epilepsy, autism and learning difficulties.

She said: "Chloe had very challenging behaviour and it got to the point where she could not access mainstream activities and she was very isolated.

"We realised there were quite a few young children who could not access activities. It meant she could have fun and be well supported, just like other children.

"As a parent, it meant I was less isolated and I do not know how I would have managed without the project."

Retired journalist and Let's Play trustee Peter Unsworth said he got involved with the charity when he was at a Banbury job fair earlier this month and was taken aback by what he came across.

The 76-year-old, from Chipping Warden, added: "I was looking for something that might interest me and I liked what I saw.

"The kids are getting a shared interest with other children, because, so often when youngsters have a problem, they are isolated.

"You have people that run it who have great interest. The people who are running it have had children there or still have children there and they keep it going."

Oxfordshire County Council confirmed the £282,216 contract would run from September until March 2017.

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Councillors block plan for houses

AN ATTEMPT to build a set of three houses in Banbury has been blocked by councillors for a second time, following concerns about overdevelopment.

Applicant Norman White was refused permission to build the homes on a garage block next to 29 Westbeech Court.

Councillors had described the plan as "cramped" when they attended a Cherwell District Council planning committee meeting.

The refusal follows an earlier refusal by councillors in May this year for the building of four homes on the site, leading Mr White to submit a revised application proposing three homes.

But the new proposals were rejected by the committee, despite being recommended for approval by council officers.

Cherwell's lead member for planning, Michael Gibbard said: "Housing development is not about squeezing as many properties as possible into one place. It is about delivering a scheme that complements the existing area and provides a high-quality living environment for future residents.

"Although in this case the number of houses was reduced by one, members still had concerns that the proposals prioritised the quantity of properties over the quality.

"As such members felt the revised proposals still represented an overdevelopment of the site which would have resulted in a cramped form of development.

"The size and design was detrimental to the character and appearance of the area and as such, councillors agreed the application should be refused."

County proving one of UK's most popular spots for couples who are tying the knot

A choice of venues is a draw, like this wedding for which Neil Hanson at nordicpics.co.uk pictured the couple on the bridge to the island at Ardington House

COUPLES across the UK appear to be flocking to Oxfordshire to tie the knot as new figures reveal our county is the place to say "I do".

Latest figures show that marriage across the nation is in decline, with only 262,240 weddings in 2013. This is compared to around 400,000 after the Second World War.

Despite this, the most recent figures available for Oxfordshire provided by the Office for National Statistics shows our county celebrated 3,627 weddings in 2011 – compared to just 2,390 in 1945. Out of the 3,627 marriages in the county, 2,342 were civil ceremonies and 1,285 were religious.

The superintendent registrar at the Oxford Registration Service, Alicja Gilroy, believes Oxfordshire is such a popular place to get married because of the diverse range of venues couples can choose from.

Mrs Gilroy said: "Over the past five or six years weddings have been creeping up. We have more than 100 venues for people to choose from.

"We also attract a lot of people from London, and because of our universities, we often have a lot of students coming back to marry."

Compared to its neighbouring counties, Oxfordshire is one of the only places that has seen such an increase in marriages since 1945.

Those looking to wed in Oxfordshire can tie the knot at Dovecote Barn at Bo Peep Farm in Cherwell, Holiday Inn in Oxford, the River and Rowing Museum in South Oxfordshire.

A popular place to wed is St Aldates Church, which has celebrated between 12 and 14 weddings per year for the last five years.

Oxford Registration Office's Mrs Gilroy, 57, said their office had conducted 2,491 ceremonies this year.

She added: "Every year we take on more places that want to be licensed.

"We have worked hard and I think number is something to be proud of."

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Firms with vacancies invited to attend fair

David Rivers
drivers@nqo.com

EMPLOYERS across the area have been called on to advertise vacancies at next month's Banbury Job Fair.

Cherwell District Council is set to host the the fair on September 15, at the Banbury Town Hall, between 4pm and 7.30pm.

The event has been rescheduled from an earlier afternoon time to accommodate job seekers who are already employed.

In March, a record of 268 people turned up at the fair, where 39 local employers and recruitment agencies were offering vacancies.

Norman Bolster, a councillor and Cherwell District Council's lead member for estates and economy, said he was aiming to beat March's attendance.

Mr Bolster added: "We are hoping to replicate the record-breaking turnout from both employers and jobseekers that we experienced earlier this year.

"We have listened to feedback and have rescheduled the event to run later into the evening so those people who are already in employment have the opportunity to come along.

"We are currently looking to recruit local employers with vacancies to fill.

"It's free to attend and gives employers a unique opportunity to meet with jobseekers face-to-face in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

"However, the last two events have been fully booked so we would urge anyone who is interested in hosting a recruitment stand to book as soon as possible."

Details of the event can be obtained by calling 01295 221863

A record number of job seekers attended March's fair

Fairport keep it simple for pioneer of festivals

One field to host big names from Toyah to Proclaimers and alt-folkies Katzenjammer

By Tim Hughes
thughes@nqo.com

Folk legends Fairport Convention, above, host another festival at its traditional home, in the fields surrounding the village of Cropredy

IT'S one of the great annual migrations; one to rival the movement of wildebeest across the plains of the Serengeti – but with tankards.

Today thousands of folk rock-lovers will descend on a steep hillside in North Oxfordshire for the start of the county's longest-running music festival – Cropredy.

Laden down with tents, wellies, cool boxes of beer and the odd musical instrument, they come for three days of music on one big field.

And chief among them are the members of the band that founded the whole thing, headline the event and even give their name to the festival, Fairport Convention.

"It's the highlight of Fairport's year," says Fairport founder member and festival director Dave Pegg. "The Cropredy fields mean so much to all five of us.

"The festival was conceived by me and my ex-wife Christine as an annual gathering way back in 1976 and I am immensely proud of its continued success."

That success is largely down to its simplicity. For while other festivals branch out with complex programmes of music, theatre, comedy and everything else under the sun across multiple stages, Cropredy keeps things uncluttered – with just one stage and only one (admittedly large) bar serving industrial quantities of real ale. "I look forward to it enormously," says Dave – known to friends as 'Peggy'. "It's always a challenge to present an eclectic musical line-up that we hope our audience will enjoy as much as we will."

Fairport Convention bookend the event with an acoustic set to launch the festival today and a lavish set to close Saturday night.

Between shows, there will be sets from artists as diverse as The Proclaimers, 80s funk-pop act Level 42, and multiple Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Emmylou Harris.

Music also comes from Scandinavian alt-folk act Katzenjammer, dub-reggae band Dreadzone, former Marillion frontman Fish, former Ace, Squeeze and Mike + The Mechanics member Paul Carrack, Toyah Willcox, Judith Owen, Celtic-rockers Skerryvore and folk acts Ahab and Skinny Lister, comic singer Richard Digance and blues act Band of Friends – who present the music of Rory Gallagher.

"We try to have something for everyone; that's my role as a director," says Dave. "The logistics are endured by Gareth Williams who spent seven years mixing sound for Oasis and consequently knows how to cope with stress!"

Festival patrons will be hoping for another sunny evening like this 2011 one

Man found safe

BANBURY: A 35-year-old man reported missing last week has been found.

Thames Valley Police yesterday said Simon O'Connell, reported missing on Saturday August 1, had been found safe.

The force added: "We would like to thank the public and the media for their assistance in sharing the appeal."

Children's cooking

BANBURY: Children can roll up their sleeves at a cooking course from Tesco and The Children's Food Trust.

As part of The Tesco East Happy Project, 'Let's Cook' will give children aged between five and 11 the chance to learn cooking skills focused on nutritious ingredients.

Youngsters will learn how to cook meals at the free event including "veggie fajitas" at the Tesco Banbury Extra Store today, then on August 18, 19, 20, and August 25, 26 and 27.

Last year, 62 children got involved in the courses over the summer. For more phone 0345 677 9030.

Classic car show

N OXON: Classic cars are gearing up for the first Blackthorn inaugural Classic Car and Vehicle Show.

More than 100 motors are expected to be on display on Thursday, September 6, in Lower Road, Blackthorn, near Bicester.

There will also be a host of family activities such as a bouncy castle and craft and trade stands.

It will run from 11am to 5pm and entry is £5 for adults and £1 for senior citizens or under 16s, with all proceeds going to Blackthorn Village Hall charitable trust.

For more information on showing cars or a trade stand, see facebook.com/events/1405097639803221

Palace walk benefitted so many

CHARITY walkers have told of how a walk around the grounds of Blenheim Palace helped support people with terminal illnesses.

The Walk to Remember, for Marie Curie, took place last Saturday evening, as participants strolled 10k in memory of friends and relatives.

Bodicote resident Glyn Girling, 69, said: "All the people I spoke to all said they enjoyed the walk. The atmosphere and weather played a terrific part."

Laura Carter-Leech, of Banbury, mum Ann Carter and friend Vicky Hayes-Kerridge, walked in memory of Mrs Carter-Leech's grandmother, Joy Bratchell, 97, who was cared for by Marie Curie before her death last year.

Train service is 'most complained about'

THE company that provides most of Oxfordshire's train services has received more complaints than any other on a new consumer website.

Resolver, which advises customers on their rights to complain, says FGW, which runs services between Oxford, London Paddington and Hereford, has received 97 complaints in 2015 so far.

Complaints cover trains being delayed, overcrowded or cancelled and poor customer service. Chiltern Railways, which links Banbury and Bicester to London Marylebone, received eight complaints and CrossCountry, which runs from Oxford to Newcastle and Bournemouth, got 20.

Chris Bates, chairman of Cherwell Rail Users Group, regularly uses FGW and CR trains from Banbury and Oxford to London. He said FGW generated more complaints than other companies because it had to use outdated signals on the Great Western network, which keep breaking down. Chiltern line signals have been modernised. He said: "The government and Network Rail need to fix them."

First Great Western spokesman James Davis said the figures did not tally with a decline in complaints, shown by Office of Rail Regulation statistics.

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From cocktail makers to fruit and veg purveyors, the goodies displayed at the weekend's Banbury Food Fair brings out enthusiasts and a celebrity chef

Feast of ideas for foodies and Rustie

Sophie Rogers, above, of Riverford Organic Farms in Woodstock brought produce to Banbury's Market Place; a crowd gathers to watch Rustie Lee cooking at the Banbury Food Fair, below

Walking tall are a pair claiming to be the world's tallest chefs, Sophie Cain, left, and John Godbolt of Banbury; Chrissie French delivered Hook Norton Brewery ales, right; Alana Spencer of Banbury, who runs Narnas, pictured with her rocky road, below right

David Rivers
drivers@nqo.com

A VISIT by television cook Rustie Lee was among the highlights of the Banbury Food Fair, attended by an estimated 10,000 people.

Local growers and chefs manned more than 100 stalls and offered goods including fruit, vegetables, flowers, jams and cakes.

The fair, organised by Banbury Town Council, also staged produce competitions divided into six categories, with 93 classes on which the judges had to deliver their verdicts.

Celebrity chef Rustie Lee, who came to fame with her recipes on breakfast television in the 1980s, had been invited to the food fair by a friend.

She said she was blown away by Banbury's charms, as the fair also saw a Banbury Cook Off, as well as giving children the chance to make milkshakes.

She said: "It was fantastic and I really enjoyed it.

"It was nice to see everyone out making different types of food and it was great tasting different kinds of food.

"The people were lovely and it was a great family day. It was a very family-orientated day.

"Banbury is lovely and it is very nice and there is nice countryside, so we had a lovely drive through."

A range of cookery demonstrations carried on into the afternoon of Sunday's festival and the celebrity chef said her favourite part of the day was the cocktails demonstration, when hundreds of people got to mix their own tipples.

Banbury mayor Tony Mepham said: "The Food Fair is one of Banbury's most popular events and attracts many thousands of people.

"It was a wonderful day out and this year, with more stalls, more demonstrations and more to eat and drink, the event was busier than ever.

to enjoy some of the myriad delights that Oxfordshire's culinary heroes have to offer

Rustie Lee enjoying the delights of Banbury's Food Fair, after being invited by a friend to attend the event

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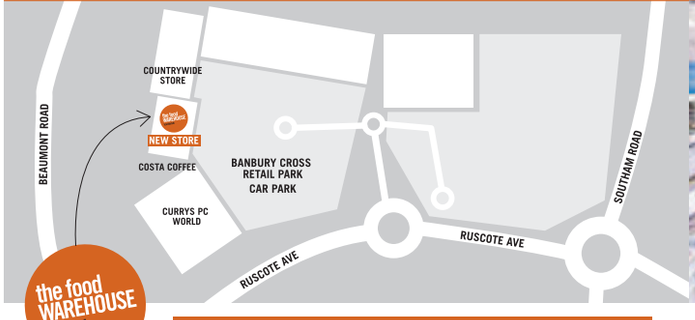

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MORE THAN YOU THINK

Cuts will put police under more strain

Hunts for missing people may be one area under threat

Alex Regan
aregan@nqo.com

POLICE officers in Oxfordshire "won't be able to do the job they currently do" as their budgets are slashed, it has been warned.

The Thames Valley Police Federation (TVPF) has warned that officers will be too stretched due to Government cuts of up to 20 per cent across policing nationwide.

Former chief constable of the force Sara Thornton said recently police might not be able to attend burglaries due to the cuts, and Manchester's most senior officer Peter Fahy has said police might also not be able to investigate missing person reports.

The TVPF, which represents police officers across the county's force, has now claimed this and other "non-crime related activity" might be affected amid further Government cuts.

Permanent secretary Clive Benson said: "Missing persons reports and mental health aren't crime, but police spend an inordinate amount of time investigating it.

"The Government constantly quotes crime statistics, which are going down, using that as a reason to make cuts.

"But what Theresa May doesn't realise is that crime is changing with things like cyber crime and child sex exploitation being far more important to the public."

Between April 2013 and March 2014, 11,787 people were reported missing in the Thames Valley region. TVP was heavily criticised in the Operation Bullfinch Serious Case Review for not noticing patterns of grooming when six girls went missing about 400 times.

Since then a Missing Persons Panel has been set up by Thames Valley Police and social services at Oxfordshire County Council to look at young people who have gone missing more than once in 90 days.

Thames Valley Police spokeswoman Michelle Campbell said: "We are looking at the current demands for our services and how we might reduce them by working with our partners and communities."

Mr Benson said: "This issue [cuts to police budgets] was not highlighted during the election and I think that if the public feel passionately about it they should write to their MP."

Road network 'causes thefts'

Sales manager Mike Stone, at Turney Groundforce, where there was a break-in about six months ago

RURAL machinery firms have said they are being targeted by international crime gangs because of Oxfordshire's road network.

Some companies have blamed the county's proximity to the M40, A34 and M4 for making it attractive to thieves who steal large expensive machinery.

The National Farmers Union (NFU) revealed rural crime cost Oxfordshire £760,000 last year, up from £650,000 in 2013.

NFU's rural affairs specialist Tim Price said it had received reports of Eastern European gangs targeting firms. He said: "They operate by locating where desirable tractors are kept on the county's farms and then loading them on to lorries.

"They then drive to the Channel ports and, once across the Channel, transport them to Eastern Europe where they are sold on to countries across the world."

One firm that has suffered is Turney Groundforce in Bicester, which has had a variety of machinery stolen, including chainsaws and hedge trimmers.

Domestic sales manager Mike Stone said: "Being near to the M40 has undoubtedly made us susceptible to international thieves. The trouble is you can never know where things have gone, but I can only assume that they've gone to Europe to be re-sold for a lot of money."

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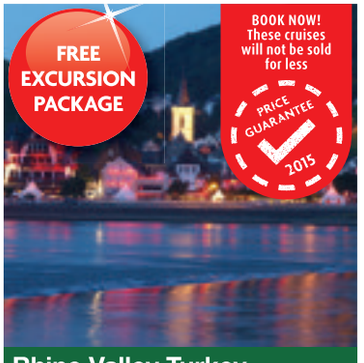

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The Day Surgery Unit team on the ward, with matron Julia Wood, centre, are urging people to help buy finishing touches for the revamped centre

Funds of £500k needed to finish unit revamp

HALF-A-MILLION pounds is needed to help transform a 1980s day surgery unit into a modern, comfortable facility for Oxfordshire.

The Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust will begin a £1.4m revamp of its unit at the Churchill Hospital to make it more comfortable and private.

Work will begin next month to add six consultation rooms and replace the 18 screened-off partitions with 14 beds split across single rooms and two-bed and four-bed bays.

The trust's charitable fund has launched an appeal to raise the £500,000 needed to add the finishing touches.

Surgery and oncology general manager Rainer Buhler said: "The Churchill is a 21st-century healthcare facility. This will bring the day surgery up in line with that. But it's also about improving the patient experience, giving them privacy and comfort."

When the £109m cancer centre opened at the Churchill Hospital in 2009 it doubled the hospital's number of theatres from five to ten, with 8,000 patients a year now passing through the day surgery unit.

Operations manager Ben Wright said the unit needed updating because it was only designed for half the capacity. The NHS will only pay for the necessities of the upgrade. Fundraising will pay for furniture, paintings and decorating.

Anniversary event

BANBURY: Celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day will be held in Banbury on Sunday, August 15.

The town council has organised the event at Banbury Town Hall which will start at 2pm and end at 4pm.

Tickets cost £2.50 each and there will be tea and cake, as well as music provided by Radio Horton. Banbury town mayor Tony Mepham will attend.

Tickets are available from Banbury Town Hall. For details, call 01295 250340.

Industrial buildings

BANBURY: Three new buildings will be built on an industrial estate in Banbury, in line with Cherwell District Council's adopted Local Plan.

Permission was granted by the council's planning committee on August 6 for the units to be built on Wildmere Road.

The three units will be incorporated in one block measuring 8.4 metres in height and 72 metres in length and will be used to provide business, general industry and storage and distribution use.

Council members said work on the development must start within three years of the committee meeting.

Respite donations

OXON: A homebuilder has donated hundreds of pounds to support a charity that offers respite care for sick youngsters.

David Wilson Homes Mercia gave £700 to Respite Care for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters (ROSY) to help with its fundraising efforts at last weekend's Wilderness Festival in Cornbury Park, Charlbury. The festival had music, productions, debates, food, and more.

David Wilson Homes is building at Adderbury Fields in Adderbury.

New building for farm is granted

Application for a second building to rear livestock has been given approval

Michael Race
mrace@nqo.com

A LIVESTOCK building with space for almost 1,000 pigs to be reared has been approved.

Permission was granted for a second pig rearing building in Somerton Road, south of the village of Souldern, at a Cherwell District Council planning meeting last Thursday.

But the approval was on condition building starts in the next three years and is carried out in accordance with the applicants' "waste management" plans.

The site is currently home to three agricultural buildings used as grain stores and the first livestock building, approved in May, is yet to be built.

Councillor Michael Gibbard, Cherwell's lead member for planning, said: "The development is deemed acceptable and it is considered that the proposed livestock building would not cause detrimental harm to the character or appearance of the landscape.

"The proposal is also considered not to have an adverse impact upon the neighbour amenity, highway safety or ecology of the area."

The livestock building, which will be to the south of Leycroft Barn, would house approximately 995 pigs at any one time.

Pigs would be reared there until they have reached the finishing weight for British Quality Pigs which is usually at about 22 weeks old.

A full "odour impact assessment" of the proposed building ruled that there would be no detrimental effects to the surrounding area.

It was agreed that it would also create an extra job role of stockman.

Drastic changes considered after cuts

ESTATES with fewer street lights and visits to the elderly over Skype are radical changes being considered by council chiefs in a bid to save further millions.

It comes after Oxfordshire County Council warned fresh Government cuts – likely to be announced this year – could leave it with £60m of extra savings to make, on top of the £284m it will implement by 2018.

Council leader Ian Hudspeth warned the next wave of cuts would be "horrific", with the council forced to focus on meeting statutory duties.

Children's centres, community groups, homeless support and youth centres could be at risk.

Mr Hudspeth said: "We have got to look at a restructure and how we can keep serving the most vulnerable."

He has instructed his cabinet to re-examine "all areas" of departments from the ground up, to suggest how services can be delivered. It is understood areas could be merged or cut.

Care visits may be changed to Internet video services.

Mr Hudspeth said: "There has been a big take-up of Internet use among the elderly. We would never discriminate against those who could not use it, but perhaps the council could use technology."

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Wantage twinning display: A photographic exhibition, celebrating the twinning agreements between Wantage and Seesen in Germany and Mably in France, held at Vale and Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Exhibition runs until Saturday. Free entry. 01235 771447.

A Tapestry of Artists: First exhibition of the Drovers' Arts Group, a new initiative celebrating and supporting arts and crafts in the Wantage area. It runs at the Vale & Downland Museum, Church Street, Wantage, until August 22. There will be a variety of work at the exhibition, which is supported by Green and Co, The Joint Economic Forum and Vale of White Horse District Council. Free entry. The museum is closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays. 01235 771447.

Arts and crafts fair: Exhibition at West Ox Arts Gallery, Town Hall, Market Square, Bampton. Members of West Ox Arts display a variety of handmade gifts, which are for sale, include jewellery, mosaics, ceramics, textiles, paintings and more. Free admission. Until August 23. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am-4.30pm and Sunday 2-4pm. 01993 850137.

Poetry performance: Poet and canal resident Jo Bell will be commemorating the end of her tenure as the Canal and River Trust Laureate with a performance of her work at the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury. Jo will be reading from her new collection *Kith*, inspired by living on the water. Subjects are as diverse as the sexual etiquette of ducks and the song of the nightingale. Jo will be supported by Bicester resident and Cornbury Festival poet Clare Bold. 8pm. £5.

Family history help: Advisers from Oxfordshire Family History Society will be at the Oxfordshire History Centre in Temple Road, Cowley, to help you research your family tree, wherever your ancestors come from. Bring what you know, and we'll hope to take your tree further back for you. 10am. Free. 01865 358151.

FRIDAY

Crochet for beginners: Like the look of crochet but no idea where to begin? Learn the basics of crochet, starting with standard granny squares at Hobbycraft, Lamarsh Road, Oxford. Squares can be used to make blankets, cushions, jumpers, bags, slippers and all sorts. 5pm. £5. 01865 364881.

Discover and play: Join the Earth Trust in Little Wittenham for a morning of play and discovery in its woodlands. Its 'forest school' offers hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment. 10am. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adults free. No need to book. 01865 407792.

Literary meadow walk: Local historian and author Mark J Davies will be the guide for this event, at Christ Church, St Aldate's, Oxford. It will focus on a range of authors spanning more than four centuries, explain the geographical and historical significance of this 'river-rounded' location and Oxford's proud tradition of competitive rowing. 2pm. £17. To book tickets, see chch.ox.ac.uk

Ramble: Four-mile walk from Leathern Bottle pub, Lewknor, via Cowleaze Wood, setting off at 6pm, with a pub supper to finish. Dogs allowed on leads please. 01844 352438.

SATURDAY

Coffee morning: You can tuck into some homemade cakes at this event, which also includes a bric-a-brac sale, Held at the Corner House, Charlbury, proceeds will be in aid of the Charlbury Museum. 9.30am-12pm.

Elder Stubbs Festival: A range of attractions, from pony rides to belly dancing, at the Elder Stubbs allotment site, Rymers Lane, Cowley, in aid of mental health charity Restore. Music from Moity, Megan Greta Josephy, Natty Mark, Headington Hillbillies and more, plus wellbeing workshops in tai chi, belly dancing, and yoga. There will also be a variety of food on offer, including pizza, a barbecue and Mexican wraps. 12pm. Adults £5, concessions £2.50.

VJ Day service: A short act of remembrance and thanksgiving to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Victory in Japan Day. Witney branch of the Royal British Legion, Church Green. From noon for about 15 minutes. 01993 772398.

Circular walk: Leisurely 10-mile walk organised by Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers starting at the church in Preston Bissett, ref SP657299, at 10am. Bring a picnic lunch. Dogs on leads please. Lionel Howse 01869 601442.

Pollinator walk: Visit the fields of flowers and grasses that encourage bees and other pollinators, at Honeydale Farm, Station Road, Charlbury. Following the walk, there will be a lunch-time buffet or barbecue, so bring a camping chair. Children and dogs are welcome. 11am. £10 (£5 for Wychwood Project members). Book your place at wychwoodproject.org/cms/content/events.

Back Room Poets: Poetry reading with George Szirtes at The Albion Beatnik Bookstore, 34 Walton Street, Oxford. 7.30pm. £ 4 (£2 members). 01865 872165.

Messy Church: Wallingford Methodist Church, St Leonard's Square, Wallingford. Craft activities, refreshments, and a story. 2pm. Free. 07720 571620.

Canal ramble: Meet outside the Randolph Hotel, Beaumont Street, at 9.55am to catch the bus 25A to Hampton Poyle, and then walk back to Oxford along the Oxford Canal and via Wolvercote and Port Meadow. 07880 856912.

Fieldpaths walk: Eight-mile circular walk from Great Barrington Village, ref SP208137, via Windrush Manor Farm and Rissington, returning via the Barrington estate. Bring refreshments and a picnic. Pub at end of the walk. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 01865 862425.

Pop-up sewing shop: Methodist Church, High Street, Witney. 10am.

SUNDAY

National Gardens Scheme: Manor House, Manor Farm Road, Dorchester on Thames. Two-acre garden in beautiful setting around Georgian house (not open) and medieval abbey. Spacious lawn leading to riverside copse of towering poplars, with lily pond, colourful herbaceous birders, small orchard and vegetable garden. There will be homemade teas in Dorchester Abbey Guesthouse plus a plant sale. Gravel paths and wheelchair access. Dogs on leads, please. 2pm. Adults £4, children free. 01865 340101.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Combe Mill: Come along and experience the power of steam and water at the Blenheim Palace sawmill in Combe. 10am. Adults £7, concessions £5, under-fives free, families £19. 01993 358694.

TUESDAY

Cool Continents: Harcourt Arboretum, Peacock Gate, Nuneham Courtenay. Every Tuesday this August, youngsters can get creative with a series of art and craft activities, each one themed around one of the world's continents. This Tuesday, the theme is Asia, with the chance to make kites inspired by Arboretum animals. Drop-in craft session runs 1-4pm. Free with admission to the arborteum (adults £4.50, concessions £3, children free). Visitors can also find out about trees from all over the world with the Cool Continents trail. 01865 341576.

Charity tea party: Charlbury Dental Practice will be holding this day-long event in aid of the Marie Curie charity. 10am onwards.

WEDNESDAY

Craft fair: Held at Morris Memorial Hall, Kelmscott, near Lechlade. The emphasis is on original, hand-crafted goods. There will also be an exhibition of the history of the arts and crafts. 12pm. Free. See kelmscott.org.uk

Hummingbird Cream Tea: The Hummingbird cancer support and therapy centre, Station Road, Launton, invites you to see what it has to offer. 2-4pm. 01869 244244.

Pitt Rivers at Marriotts Walk: The Oxford museum is taking over Marriotts Walk shopping centre, Witney, by pitching a tent and offering visitors a chance to handle objects and have a go at crafts inspired by the museum collections. 9am. Free. 01865 270927.

Woodland Adventure: An expedition for five to eight-year-olds at Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. Youngsters can use their detective skills to discover the Earth Trust's woodland, where they will explore, build and play. 10am. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adults free. No need to book. 01865 407792.

Fieldpaths walk: Slow and irregular walk around the many historic sights of Witney and its Blanket Trail. It will start from Buttercross at 10am ref. SP353096 and last four miles, but please allow more than three hours. There will be refreshments available at Cogges Farm or in town. Peter Ewart 01865 874397.

Illustrated talk: Oxfam volunteer Sam Dastor will discuss his visit to the development charity's projects in Rwanda at the Friends' Meeting House, Market Street, Charlbury. 8pm.

Dance

THURSDAY

Scottish Country Dancing: St Michael & All Angels Church Hall, Portland Road, Summertown. 8pm. £3.50 non-members, £3 members, first week free. 01869 340830.

Sequence and ballroom dancing: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Teaching from 7.30-8.45pm. Practice until 10 30pm. 7.30pm. £2. 01993 811473.

SATURDAY

VJ dance: Tea dance celebrating the 70th anniversary of Victory in Japan Day will be held at Banbury Town Hall, Bridge Street, with music from the 1940s. Go along for tea and cake, dancing and relive your memories from the era. 2pm. £2.50. 01295 250340.

White Horse Festival Ceilidh: Stomping barn dance at Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove, with the Jazz Ceilidh Project, who provide heavily improvised music with raw energy. Caller Yarden Brody will guide all-comers through each dance for everyone – from experienced dancers or complete beginner. Half-time spot from Jim Mageean and Greame Knights. 8pm. £9 adults, £4.50 under-16s. 07855 548512. See whitehorseceilidhs.org.uk for details.

TUESDAY

Tea dance: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. 2pm. £2. 01993 811473.

Music

THURSDAY

Fairport's Cropredy Convention: This annual festival, running in Cropredy, near Banbury, from Thursday to Saturday. Acts include Emmylou Harris on Thursday, Level 42 and the Proclaimers on Friday, and Richard Digance, Paul Carrack, Toyah Wilcox and Fairport Convention on Saturday. Tickets available on the gate.

FRIDAY

Laurence live: The Village Inn, Fane Drive, Berinsfield. Songs from Motown to the present day from the popular singer, keyboard player and guitarist. 9pm. free.

SATURDAY

Sizzlin' summer shindig: This event, at The Oxfordshire Yeoman Pub, 172 Wroslyn Road, Freeland, will be in aid of Marie Curie charity, supporting people with terminal illnesses. There will be country theme so fancy dress is welcomed but optional. Two bands will play on the night – The Revalators, a lively blues and boogie band, and the Headington Hillbillies, who play a blend of classic American music mixed with the spirit of English punk rock. There will be food and raffle, with donations of prizes much appreciated. 7pm. Tickets £10 in advance. 07754 271831.

Bruce Gomersall: The Swan Inn, Shipton Road, Ascott-under-Wychwood. Bruce has been a musician/MC at Nettlebed Folk Club for nearly 40 years and has played on stage with most of the top performers on the UK folk scene. He sings a range of material, from traditional to contemporary, sometimes also telling short stories of his colourful early years. There will be support from Philip Murray Warson, a 25-year-old Oxfordshire musician. 8pm. £5. To reserve a seat, call 01993 831427.

Oxford Prom: International coloratura soprano Julia Kogan performs a programme of arias in a concert performance with Oxford Proms Orchestra conducted by John Traill at the Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford. Tickets £10-£38, under 12s with an adult free. 7.30pm.

Darren Hunt: Returns to the Royal Standard, London Road, Headington, with the best in classic rock. Free entry. 8pm. 01865 764591.

Jamie Felton: The singer-songwriter, a winner of Banbury's Got Talent, performs with his band and special guests, at The Mill, Spiceball Park, Banbury. 8:00pm. £10. 01295 279002.

SUNDAY

Fly on the Wall: This four-piece rock covers band make their long awaited return to Bell Inn, Market Place, Wantage. 5pm. Free entry. 01235 763718.

WEDNESDAY

Zelda's Jazz Room: The Comrades Club, Newbury Street, Wantage. Trumpeter Alan Gresty and clarinettist Brian White lead an eight-piece band with a programme of classic jazz including South Rampart Street Parade, High Society and many other favourites. Licensed bar and raffle. A fish and chip is supper available at £4 (order by 8pm). 8pm. £10. 01235 765648.

Theatre

THURSDAY

Comedy of Errors: Don't Hate The Players Theatre Company returns to the Oxford Castle Quarter, New Road, Oxford, to perform William Shakespeare's original tale of twins and mistaken identity set in a touring circus. 7.30pm £15, £13 concs. 07591 934156. Runs until Saturday.

Twelfth Night: In Oxford Shakespeare Company's production at Wadham College Gardens, Parks Road, Oxford, Nick Lloyd Webber revisits his acclaimed score under the direction of Nick Green for this adaptation of The Bard's timeless comedy. With gypsy folk band, mad hair, immense jewellery, outrageous costumes. 7.30pm. £13-£23. 01865 305305. Runs until Saturday.

As You Like It: Lawn setting for Shakespeare's romantic comedy, at Lady Margaret Hall, Norham Gardens, Oxford. The production by Creation features a wrestling match, love notes on trees and boys falling in love with girls dressed as boys. 7.30pm, plus Saturday matinées at 2.30pm. Tickets are £22 from creationtheatre.co.uk or 01865 766266. Runs until September 12. Not Sundays.

MONDAY

The Mousetrap: Agatha Christie's whodunnit, famous for being the longest running show in the history of British theatre. Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, until Saturday. 7.30pm. £14-30. 01865 305305.

Comedy

SATURDAY

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Four comics from the top of the UK and international comedy circuit. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 0400.

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Witty way to explore what womanhood means today

TRAINWRECK **(15, 125 mins), a comedy/romance with Amy Schumer, Bill Hader, Tilda Swinton, Vanessa Bayer and John Cena. Director: Judd Apatow**

AWARD-winning actress and writer Amy Schumer raises her skirt to political correctness and flashes sexual inequality with this potty-mouthed comedy.

Directed at a lick by Judd Apatow, *Trainwreck* is a hilarious and heart-warming portrait of modern womanhood.

Schumer is the butt of her own expertly targeted jokes and generously shares sparkling one-liners around the excellent ensemble cast.

In particular, she creates a hysterical role for Tilda Swinton, as a monstrous magazine editor, who demands gung-ho headline-grabbing titillation.

Trainwreck is laced with enough biting wit and self-effacement to drink *The Hangover* and its imitators under the table.

At nine, Amy Townsend (Schumer) learns a lesson about relationships from her embittered father. "Monogamy isn't realistic," he says and she takes those words to her booze-soaked heart, enjoying anonymous encounters while dating a muscled hunk (John Cena).

Amy works at lifestyle magazine *S'Nuff*, where editor Dianna (Swinton) assigns her a profile on sports doctor Aaron Conners (Bill Hader).

Amy knows almost nothing about sport but obliges and sparks an unlikely romance with the kind-hearted medic that threatens to unravel the fabric of her bed-hopping existence.

Trainwreck proves a wicked delight. as Schumer endears us to her self-destructive 30-something and Hader is adorable.

Game of Thrones **star Peter Dinklage as Eddie and Ashley Benson as Lady Lisa in throwback games vehicle** *Pixels*, **left;** *Trainwreck*'**s Amy Schumer and Bill Hader**

PIXELS (12A, 106 mins), a sci-fi comedy with Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Josh Gad, Peter Dinklage, and Jared Riley. Director: Chris Columbus

MANY awkward kids escaped reality with addictive games on consoles and computers, including Atari, Vic 20 and Commodore 64 as *Asteroids, Battlezone, Centipede, Pacman, Phoenix, Space Invaders* and *Track & Field* became their best friends.

Pixels harks back to this era in a big budget romp that imagines life-size arcade games on modern streets, where losing a life could mean the end of Earth.

But it fails to capitalise on this premise, crafting an inane story of triumph against adversity.

In 1982, pals Sam and Will attend the arcade game world championships and befriend oddball Ludlow before Sam loses the final to egotistical champion Eddie. Today Sam (Adam Sandler) installs software for a living, while Will (Kevin James) is the unpopular US President.

When aliens attack with energy coded to swarm like creatures in *Galaga*, it transpires that a time capsule of game footage has been intercepted and taken as a declaration of war.

To halt the alien advance, man must compete in life-or-death *Centipede* and *Pacman* battles.

Cake Bookworm

How to Be Happy (Or At Least Less Sad): A Creative Workbook **by Lee Crutchley, paperback by Ebury Press, £8.99**

One in four of us will experience some sort of mental health problem during the year. Although many may only think of the extremes of mental health, it's clear that anxiety and depression can be closer to home than we allow ourselves to believe.

Lee Crutchley doesn't claim to offer a cure, or claim to have a fool-proof method for recovery. While he claims this isn't a self-help book, it is exactly that in the literal sense.

He never makes anything difficult to understand, and offers snippets of his experiences to change his role from author to friend, confidant and teacher.

He asks you to think about the simpler things in life, for example, by writing down good things that have happened to you that day, no matter how small it may be, and helps you to realise how things that seem, at times, like the end of the world in fact aren't.

R.I.P **by Nigel Williams, hardback by Corsair, £18.99 (ebook £12.99)**

After a heavy session on the parsnip wine, George Pearmain would like to be left in peace the next morning. Wife Esmeralda bemoans his laziness and uselessness as she sets about getting the house in order for George's mother's 99th birthday. Unfortunately, she's popped her clogs and when Esmeralda comes to cajole George, there's another discovery... George is dead too. Two deaths wouldn't necessarily seem the most apposite starting point for a comic novel, but Nigel Williams manages to bring a very British sense of humour to the matter through his disconcerted middle-aged anti-hero George. But behind the laughs in this murder mystery are touching realisations about what it means to be married and in love.

Herman's Holiday **by Tom Percival, paperback by Bloomsbury Childrens, £6.99 (ebook £6.98)**

Author-illustrator Tom Percival tackles the premise that everyone loves a camping trip in this beautiful book. Herman, a bear, and raccoon friend Henry set off on an adventure, but only Herman finds it any fun. While he's roasting marshmallows within five minutes, Henry just can't get the hang of putting up a tent. The next day, they go to buy postcards and here's where the fun begins, as the postcards are flaps to lift to read the contents. Henry's first missive to Aunt Winifred is pessimistic: "Have you ever been camping? Well, if you haven't, DON'T, it's AWFUL." Soon mysterious packages arrive and the bear transforms the campsite into an adventure playground. Funny, warm and brilliantly entertaining.

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STAR MAN: Tim Paine scored his unbeaten 152 off 154 balls

How's that for openers

Paine and Darby in double-century stand

A REMARKABLE double-century opening partnership between Hugo Darby and Tim Paine propelled Banbury back into the heart of the Division 1 title race on Saturday.

Set 263 for victory by visitors Burnham, Banbury triumphed by ten wickets thanks to superb batting from former Australia wicket-keeper Paine (152no) and Oxfordshire opener Darby (106no), who knocked off the runs with five overs to spare.

Banbury are now just three points behind leaders Henley and three ahead of High Wycombe with four games to go.

Burnham won the toss and Karan Kumar, with an aggressive 73 off 89 balls, and Aftab Khan, added 82 for the fourth wicket.

The spin of Luke Ryan and Richard West halted their momentum and they had to settle for 262-9 from their 64-over allocation.

Darby and Paine made light work of the task.

Paine's unbeaten 152 came off 154 balls, with one six and 18 fours, while Darby reached his century just before victory was achieved in the 51st over.

BURNHAM

M Fazal lbw Wright	30
O Siddique lbw Blanchard	10
H Gandam b Penhale	15
A Khan lbw Ryan	37
K Kumar st Paine b West	73
S Ali c Sabin b West	7
R Nadeem not out	41
A Malik b Ryan	6
F Raja c Phillips b Ryan	7
S Javed lbw Phillips	9
M Haroon not out	20
Extras	7
Total (9 wkts, 64 ovs)	262

Fall: 1-22, 2-51, 3-67, 4-149, 5-166, 6-183, 7-194, 8-216, 9-225.

Bowling: Keegan 9-2-22-0, Blanchard 5-0-18-1, Wright 5-1-16-1, Penhale 7-1-37-1, Ryan 19-3-78-3, West 10-1-31-2, Phillips 9-0-55-1.

BANBURY

T Paine not out	152
H Darby not out	106
Extras	7
Total (0 wkts, 51 ovs)	265

Bowling: Haroon 6-0-44-0, Khan 17-1-74-0, Malik 9-0-45-0, Gandam 3-0-24-0, Javed 16-2-71-0.

Banbury 25pts, Burnham 3

Second-half strikes see off Puritans

THREE second-half goals sent Banbury United crashing to an opening 3-0 defeat at home to Swindon Supermarine in Division 1 South & West of the Evo-Stik Southern League on Saturday.

Leam Howards and Ricky Johnson went close in the first half for Banbury, who were relegated last season.

Supermarine gradually took control and scored after the break through Ash Taylor and Connor Waldon to lead 2-0.

The result was settled with a penalty from Luke Hooper after he had been upended by Jon Steedman.

A rueful Puritans boss Mike Ford said: "We didn't take our chances in the first half and they took theirs in the second – that's football.

"If we play like we did in the second half on Saturday, it could be a long season."

Banbury Utd: Tupper, Eadle, White, Bowles, Gunn, Steedman, McEachran (Evangelinos 63), Tappin, Johnson, Howards (Joyce 63), Bell (Martin 66). Subs not used: Cox, McLaughlin.

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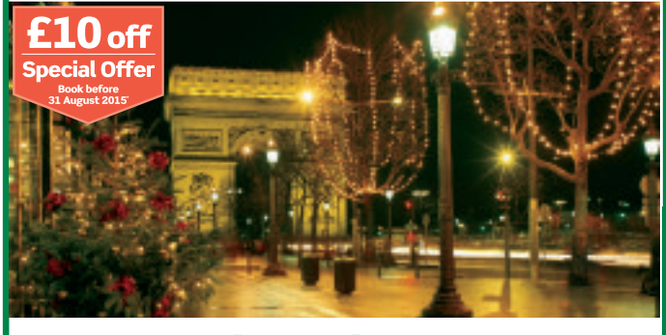
Reader Offer



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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

It's not nice to see our close ones suffering, but many people in your life aren't willing to help themselves at the moment and you may be better to back away so that they realise how serious their situation has become. The stars last week made you a sucker for a sob story, but you have the chance to wise up this week and should grab it with both hands. Ring me for empowerment.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Your love for those in your life is so strong that you really would do anything for them. Aspects suggest that moral support is better than physical support as it will give them the chance to stand on their own two feet, which is eventually what they're going to have to do. Family prove trying, but put on a brave face for the older members this weekend. Ring now and I'll tell you a secret.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Events in the coming days really do fill your life with light and enjoyment, but a small part of you will be trying to fight it. Don't. Give in to how you're feeling or you'll miss out on the chance to experience your life at its best. Foreign accents and dealings with those from abroad can go really well for you at this time. Ring now to hear who's been spreading rumours in work.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

The coming days and weeks could see you laying out large sums of money and you'll start to see the difference in those who were pleasant to you, as they now want to go out of their way to get to know you better. Don't be late for appointments today as your reputation depends on you being on time. Ring now to hear how romance could see you telling some white lies.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

You want change, in fact you've wanted it for a really long time. So what are you waiting for Leo? If you're not careful, a certain person is going to get bored with the games you're playing and you're going to get your fingers burnt. Those you meet midweek and possibly through work touch your heart in a way that will pleasantly surprise you. Ring now for a revelation in love.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Try not to act on all you hear this week as many of the signs are trying to stir gossip for the sake of it. Try to stick to the plans you had and not just with the pushy demands of others. New ways to deal with those who try to push you about in business can be found in events which occur on Thursday and Friday. Give me a ring now so we can bring out your best qualities.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

I know you lost a lot of faith in your close ones at the beginning of the month, but for once I'd advice you to watch and wait to see what they come up with in the next seven days, as I think you're gong to be pleasantly surprised. The return of a face from the past gives your morale the boost it's been in need of. Call me now to find out what is fact and what's fiction.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Your subconscious is trying to give you messages, but you're fighting your true feelings. Try to listen to your instincts and to act on them. What you want can be yours with a little careful planning and consideration. You're scared because of the past but you're older and wiser now, so be confident. Ring now so that I can help you to be the best you can be.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

A forgetful mood could see you making silly mistakes or getting into trouble with professionals who were relying on you. Try to keep a diary of what needs to be done so that you can be on time and not end up with regrets by Friday. The written word via email or text can help you get back in the game financially. Ring now to hear why it's worth contacting past business associates.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Family prove more trying than usual and you may find yourself telling lies to get out of arrangements you've made. Watch out for Geminis trying to take advantage of you in business. You may be better to stick to those you know and trust so you can be sure of getting the deal you want and need. Ring now to hear how romance and travel work wonders in your life.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

A plan you thought could not work, actually could Aquarius. Try to look at the facts and figures of what you're being offered again as things are not what they at first seemed. Fellow Aquarians can keep any secrets you want to offload, so seek them out. Weekend plans put you in the middle of petty arguments. Know where to draw the line at those goading you. Ring now for support.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

Many of the signs are not very good at keeping secrets this week so be careful of sharing information you wanted to keep private or you may end up falling out permanently with those you know well. New relationships from Thursday are well starred as you're given the chance to see what it feels like to be treated well. Ring now so I can give you a full reading.

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9 RECRUITMENT
10 MOTORS
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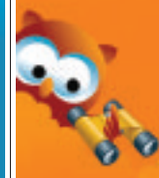

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Ferocious Lexus but easy to drive

By David Duffy
david.duffy@nqo.com

THE snarlingly ferocious front-end styling of the Lexus RC F is enough to scare the life out of small children.

But what lies under the bonnet is more than capable of keeping adults awake at night.

Five litres, eight cylinders and 471 horsepower is a combination comfortably more at home on a racetrack than crawling along a traffic-clogged Oxfordshire road. Indeed, it has already proved a success in the Pan-Asian Super GT series and Lexus has supplied a heavily-modified 533-horsepower version to teams worldwide for entry in the GT3 racing series.

The rear-wheel-drive coupé is the Lexus response to the likes of BMW's mighty M4.

Driving through an eight-speed transmission, the new engine gives performance figures of nought to 62mph acceleration in 4.5 seconds and 50 to 75mph in just 3.7 seconds. The potential top speed – electronically governed – is 168mph.

I don't intend to debate the logic of building such high-performance cars for road use, especially when many can be beastly to manage in day-to-day driving. But underneath the RC F's over-the-top bodywork lies a car that – whisper this – is actually extremely easy to drive, has two child-sized rear seats and a decent-sized boot.

And, despite the whopping 19-inch wheels and racetrack styling, it is also loaded with equipment.

That means heated – and cooled – seats, seven-inch colour satellite navigation, a vibrating feedback touchpad controller, 17-speaker, 835W Mark Levinson hi-fi system and air conditioning with independent temperature control for the left and right-hand sides of the cabin.

But it is the driving experience that RC F owners prize. So settle in the new high-back seat and enjoy the generous bolstering which gives the excellent support needed for high-G acceleration, braking and cornering.

Ahead of you is a three-spoke steering wheel with paddle shifts and between the front seats sits a small dial that delivers instant modification of the powertrain, steering and chassis.

The F designation stands for Fuji Speedway, the race circuit where Lexus carries out much of its high-speed development work. A pretty scary thought.

The potential top speed of this Lexus model is 168mph and it has won favour with racing teams

Auto facts

Model: Lexus RC F
Price: £60,995
Insurance group: 48 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 26.2mpg
Top speed: 168mph
Length: 470.5cm/185.2in
Width: 184.5cm/72.6in
Luggage capacity: 12.9 cu ft
CO2 emissions: 252g/km
Warranty: Three years/ 62,137 miles

In brief

- **Silverstone Auctions' efficient car handling was tested when racing driver Justin Maeers, declared he would like to race his 1959 Cooper Monaco in the Stirling Moss Trophy, the morning after he bought it. Staff had to complete paperwork and move the car to the scrutineering area in under 10 minutes, in time for the deadline for the class. Managing director and racing driver Nick Whale said: "It was all hands to the pump and I am so pleased that we could meet the challenge and get the car on track. The 1959 Cooper Monaco headlined the inaugural Competition Car Sale and sold for £219,375. In the race, Maeers only managed two laps and was forced to retire, admitting the gearbox had been damaged due to his unfamiliarity with the car.**
- **As many as 65 per cent of UK drivers don't take a rest break on motorways, saying they don't feel the need. The Institute of Advanced Motorists study comes as evidence shows drivers need a break every two hours to maintain a safe level of concentration.**

Three decades of AA atlases

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FOR 30 years drivers have been finding their way around the nation with the help of the AA atlases.

The 2016 editions of the AA's range of road atlases for Britain include more than 136,000 miles of roads mapped out in each and over 31,000 cities, towns and villages; helping motorists find not only their destinations, but a plethora of hidden gems to explore.

Mike Parker, author of Mapping the Roads, said: "The idea, 30 years ago, that you would plug in your brick of a car telephone and it would give you precise instructions to get you to your destination was the stuff of science fiction.

"How times have changed – satnavs and now smartphones, in turn, have been the fastest-selling gadgets in history. But that doesn't mean that the paper map is dead – far from it. A road atlas will never lose power or signal.

"More importantly, it helps you see the bigger picture, the context of the land through which you're travelling.

"That way, you might spot a scenic alternative back road route, or unearth an interesting diversion on the way. Paper maps help remind us that there's much much more to our land than tarmac."

A lot has changed since the first edition of the AA Road Atlas Britain. The first edition showed the M25, fully opened in October 1986, the M4 and the M5 both fully opened but the M3 only running from London to Winchester and there was no M20 between Maidstone and Ashford.

The new AA Road Atlas Britain range includes seven varieties with differing scales, size and bindings all fully revised for 2016.

Six of the series were in the top 10 bestselling UK atlases in the past 12 months including the Big Easy Read Atlas Britain spiral edition, which was the top-selling UK road atlas.

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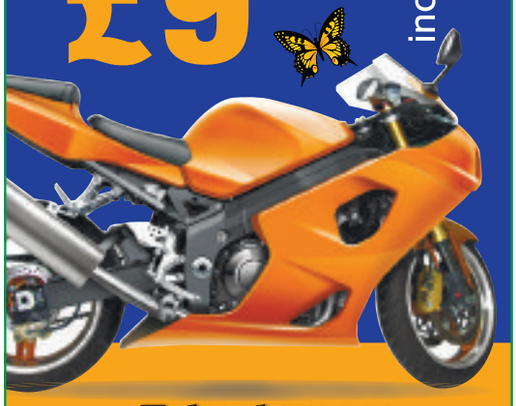

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Child/OAP £28.00 (C)

MARY ROSE MUSEUM
& PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD
A wonderful day to enjoy the many attractions
Sunday 13th September
Adult £48.50
Child £37.50 (CE)

BUCKINGHAM PALACE STATE ROOMS
& 2 course carvery lunch at the 4* Strand Palace Hotel
Sunday 20th September
Adult £58.50
Child/OAP £56.50 (CEL)

BATTLE OF BRITAIN AIR SHOW
Imperial War Museum, Duxford
75th anniversary of this famous aerial battle
Sunday 20th September Adult £49.50 Child £34.50 (CE)

MALVERN AUTUMN GARDENING SHOW
A celebration of food, the countryside, gardening & nostalgia!
Sunday 27th September
£42.50 (CE)

BLUEBELL RAILWAY
& SHEFFIELD PARK, EAST SUSSEX
The magnificent landscapes of Sheffield Park and a delightful steam hauled train ride on the Bluebell Railway
Sunday 27th September
Adult £49.50
Child £37.50 (CET)

SUPERB THEATRE SHOWS

Christmas Carol Sing Along
@ The World Famous Royal Albert Hall

Clap your hands…stamp your feet…and sing your heart out as irrepressible showman Jonathan Cohen leads you through another fun-filled jamboree of his most-loved carols and all-time Christmas hits.
Sunday 13th December
or Thursday 17th December 2015
£59.50

ELF THE MUSICAL
at the Dominion Theatre, London

Starring the winner of ITV's Superstar Ben Forster as Buddy the Elf
and Girls Aloud's Kimberley Walsh as Jovie
Wednesday 2nd December 2015
Only £64.50

DISNEY ON ICE - WORLDS OF ENCHANTMENT
INCLUDING DISNEY'S FROZEN!

Enter the dazzling world of Disney magic, live on ice! Rev up for non-stop fun with four of your favourite Disney stories.
Sunday 25th October 2015 (matinee)
Barclaycard Arena (NIA) Birmingham
Adult £52.50 Child/OAP £49.50
Early Bird Deposit : £15 per person secures your seat

GUYS & DOLLS New!
At the Savoy Theatre (Matinee) *inc. 2 Course Carvery at the Savoy Palace Hotel*

Classic Broadway Musical, probably the most perfect musical comedy ever written. (Matinee Showing)
Also includes a 2 Course Carvery Lunch at the Strand Palace Hotel, London, near the Savoy Theatre.
Tuesday 8th March 2016
Only £69.50

NEW THEATRE OXFORD - Forthcoming Shows

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR £57.50
Inspired by the political and personal struggles between Judas Iscariot and Jesus Christ, this spectacular musical follows the last week of Jesus' life, beginning with the preparations for his arrival in Jerusalem and ending with his crucifixion.
Monday 28th September 2015

THE BODYGUARD the Musical **£57.50**
Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge – what they don't expect is to fall in love.
Tuesday 10th November 2015

ANNIE THE MUSICAL £54.50
Set in 1930's New York during the great depression, brave young Annie is forced to live a life of misery and torment at Miss Hannigan's orphanage! With its award winning book and score , this stunning new production includes the unforgettable song's – It's the Hard knock Life – Easy Street – I don't need anythingBut you – and tomorrow!
Tuesday 15th December 2015

Top shows on the way to Oxford – Thriller – Chicago – Priscilla Queen Of The Desert – Watch This Space!!!

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